

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EIND, EEC

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE NTM CONCERNING SUBCONTRACTING FOR SEMI-CONDUCTOR
DEVICES

REF: STATE A-6482, 1975

1. SUMMARY: IN RESPONSE TO REFERENCE AIRGRAM, THE MISSION MET
WITH H.K. TRONIER, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE
FOR ELECTROTECHNICAL STANDARDIZATION (CENELEC) ON JANUARY 9.

TRONIER, WHO HAS GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ALL OF CENELEC'S
ACTIVITIES, WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE SATISFACTORY
ANSWERS TO ALL OF THE DETAILED QUESTIONS CONTAINED IN REFTEL
BUT RECOMMENDED SEVERAL PEOPLE HE BELIEVED COULD BE HELPFUL.
TRONIER'S RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS IN REFTEL FOLLOWS. END SUMMARY.

2 (QUESTIONS 1 AND 2) TRONIER COULD NOT CITE CASES WHERE
THE EUROPEANS HAD PROBLEMS WITH THE QUALITY OF EUROPEAN OR
IMPORTED SEMI-CONDUCTORS. TRONIER SAID THE ECENELEC
REGIONAL STANDARDS AND CERTIFICATION SCHEME WAS DEV-
ELOPED BECAUSE THERE IS, AS YET, NO OPERATING SCHEME
IN THE INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION (IEC).
TRONIER BELIEVES THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO REACH AGREE-
MENT IN THE IEC BECAUSE TOO MANY COUNTRIES WITH LITTLE
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OR NO RELEVANT INDUSTRY HAVE THE POWER TO BLOCK

DECISIONS. TRONIER SAID THAT CENELEC'S ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS COMMITTEE (CECC) WILL MAKE ITS SPECIFICATIONS AVAILABLE TO THE IEC.

3. (QUESTION 3) ACCORDING TO TRONIER, APPENDIX II HAS BEEN ADOPTED.

4. (QUESTION 5) TRONIER SAID THAT THERE WERE, AS YET, NO PROVISIONS FOR THE APPROVAL OF MANUFACTURERS LOCATED IN NON-CECC COUNTRIES. HE SAID SUCH APPROVAL WOULD REQUIRE AGREEMENTS WITH THE CECC OR THE ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMITTEE OF CENELEC (ECQAC). HE NOTED THAT THERE WERE PROVISIONS IN THE CECC RULES FOR CERTIFYING DISTRIBUTORS.

5. (QUESTION 6) TRONIER INDICATED THAT A RESIDENT OF NON-CECC COUNTRIES CANNOT QUALIFY AS A LOCAL CHIEF INSPECTOR.

6. (QUESTION 7) TRONIER SAID THAT THE APPROVED MANUFACTURERS SHOULD HAVE FACILITIES FOR DIFFUSION OR AN ACTIVE SECOND SOURCE OF SUPPLY IN A CECC COUNTRY TO PREVENT FIRMS FROM PROCESSING WAFERS OUTSIDE THE CECC COUNTRIES AND PASSING THEM OFF AS EUROPEAN PRODUCTS.

7. (QUESTION 8) ACCORDING TO TRONIER, THE QUALIFICATION APPROVAL CERTIFICATE AND THE QUALIFIED PRODUCTS LIST WOULD BE USED IN CONNECTION WITH CONDITIONS FOR PURCHASES ESTABLISHED BY GOVERNMENTS AND PTTS. HE COULD NOT ELABORATE ON THIS POINT BUT ADMITTED THAT THIRD COUNTRY SEMI- CONDUCTORS AND COMPONENTS WOULD CLEARLY BE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST IN THE CASE OF GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS. THE LACK OF CECC QUALITY CERTIFICATION COULD NOT KEEP SUCH PRODUCTS OFF THE GENERAL MARKET BUT COULD DISQUALIFY THEM FROM GOVERNMENT PURCHASES WHERE SUCH CERTIFICATION IS A CONDITION FOR PROCUREMENT. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE US AND JAPANESE GOVERNMENTS DISCRIMINATE IN A SIMILAR FASHION AGAINST FOREIGN SEMI-CONDUCTORS.

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8. (QUESTION 10) TRONIER SAID THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL SUPERVISING INSPECTORATE IN A NON-CECC COUNTRY WITHOUT AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT.

9. (QUESTION 11) TRONIER SAID THAT ALL CECC SPECIFICATIONS ARE CALLED HARMONIZATION DOCUMENTS. "GENERIC" REFERS TO GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS AND "SECTIONAL" TO SPECIFIC SPECIFICATIONS. AS OF NOVEMBER 22, CECC

SPECIFICATIONS HAD BEEN ISSUED, FIVE MORE HAD BEEN RATIFIED AND WERE READY FOR PUBLICATION AND 33 DRAFTS HAVE BEEN CIRCULATED FOR OPINIONS. THERE ARE 22 DIFFERENT WORKING GROUPS UNDER THE CECC.

10. (QUESTION 13) THE ECQAC IS COMPOSED OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF ELECTRICAL TESTING ORGANIZATIONS AND IS INDEPENDENT OF CECC. IT OPERATES THE CECC QUALITY CERTIFICATION SCHEME USING CECC SPECIFICATIONS. TRONIER COULD NOT PROVIDE A CURRENT MEMBERSHIP LIST BUT SAID THE PRESIDENT IS DR. ALFRED WARNER, VDE-PRUEFSTELLE, MERIANSTRASSE 28, D-6050 OFFENBACH (MAIN), WEST GERMANY (TEL. 8306-222). DR. WARNER WAS DESCRIBED AS THE MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE PERSON FOR INFORMATION ON THE ECQAC AND RELATED ISSUES.

11. COMMENT: BECAUSE OF HIS DISTANCE FROM THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CECC AND ECQAC WE FOUND TRONIER'S RESPONSES LESS THAN COMPLETE AND PERHAPS, IN SOME CASES, MISLEADING. NONETHELESS, THEY MAY BE OF INTEREST TO WASHINGTON OFFICIALS WHO HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE SUBJECT THAN WE DO. EMBASSY BRUSSELS WILL BE FOLLOWING UP WITH MR. MARICHOUL OF CEBEC, THE BELGIAN ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMITTEE WHO, TRONIER SAID, IS A MEMBER OF ECQAC. IN ADDITION TO DR. WARNER, TRONIER SAID THE US SHOULD CONTACT A MR. OATLEY, THE CECC SECRETARY GENERAL WHOSE ADDRESS IS D-6 FRANKFURT 70, STRESEMANNALLEE 21. THE BASIC RULES AND RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE CECC CAN BE OBTAINED FROM OATLEY.

12. ON THE BASIS OF OUR CONVERSATION IT CERTAINLY WOULD APPEAR THAT THE CECC SCHEME WOULD POSE A NON-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TARIFF BARRIER TO US SEMI-CONDUCTOR MANUFACTURERS. WE WONDER WHAT ROLE US COMPANIES ALREADY PRODUCING SEMI-CONDUCTORS IN EUROPE ARE PLAYING IN THE CECC SCHEME--WE ASSUME THEY PARTICIPATE.
GREENWALD

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